

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PORG, UNGA, MARR, UK, BD
SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF 24 (C-24): BERMUDA

REF: A) USUN 1398 (NOTAL), B) USUN 1397 (NOTAL)

1. CONSIDERATION OF BERMUDA BY THE C-24 SUB-COMMITTEE
ON SMALL TERRITORIES CONTINUED ON APRIL 13 WITH
STATEMENTS BY CHILE AND YUGOSLAVIA, A CLOSING
STATEMENT BY THE UK AND A HEATED REPLY BY BULGARIA.
THE SUB-COMMITTEE WILL NEXT CONSIDER DRAFT
RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS ON BERMUDA.
2. CHILEAN MISOFF MONSALVE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT
BERMUDA'S ECONOMY IS SO NEARLY COMPLETELY
DEPENDENT ON EXTERNAL FACTORS AND AT THE
CONCENTRATION OF POLITICAL, BANKING AND ECONOMIC
POWER IN THE SAME HANDS. CORRECTIVE MEASURES ARE
REQUIRED TO REMOVE THE CAUSES OF LATENT SOCIAL UNREST
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AND RACIAL HOSTILITY. NOTING THAT THE PRESENCE OF
MILITARY BASES PER SE DOES NOT INHIBIT THE
RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE OF A TERRITORY TO SELF-DETERMINATION,
HE SAID THERE IS NO REPEAT NO EVIDENCE THAT THE
BASES PLAY A "NEGATIVE" ROLE IN BERMUDA'S ECONOMY.

3. YUGOSLAV MISOFF MARMULAKU EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT

INFORMATION SUBMITTED TO THE COMMITTEE BY ADMINISTERING POWERS IS USUALLY OUT OF DATE, SO THE COMMITTEE AND SUB-COMMITTEE ARE NOT FULLY INFORMED. HE SUGGESTED HEARING ORAL PETITIONERS AND RECEIVING WRITTEN PETITIONS AS POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS. NOTING THE GREEN PAPER AS A SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT, HE EXPRESSED CONCERN AT ITS EMPHASIS ON THE DANGERS OF INDEPENDENCE. THE DECEMBER RIOTS, HE SAID ARE A SIGNAL FOR THE NEED FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AND OTHER CHANGES.

4. IN A CLOSING STATEMENT UK MISOFF WOODS REPLIED TO EARLIER BULGARIAN CRITICISM (REF B) INTER ALIA, WOODS NOTED THAT IT IS NORMAL PRACTICE IN A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY FOR AN OPPOSITION PARTY TO MAKE ITS DISAGREEMENTS KNOWN. CONCERNING THE MILITARY BASES, HE SAID THAT WHILE THEY DO OCCUPY APPROXIMATELY 10 OF THE LAND, 1 1/2 SQUARE MILES IS RECLAIMED LAND AND THE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, WHICH WOULD HAVE TO EXIST ANYWAY, TAKES UP 1/2 THE BASE. HE NOTED THAT THE USG IS CURRENTLY DISCUSSING WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA THE POSSIBILITY OF HANDING BACK PART OF THE BASE AREA. HE ALSO NOTED THE ECONOMIC ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF RETAINING THE BASES, WHOSE VALUE IS GENERALLY RECOGNIZED BY THE PEOPLE OF BERMUDA. REPLYING TO AN EARLIER IRAQI STATEMENT THAT THE BASES ARE INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE INTERESTS OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

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PEOPLE, HE SAID THE UK POSITION REMAINS THAT THE PEOPLE OF BERMUDA ARE THE BEST JUDGE OF THAT.

5. BULGARIAN MISSOFF NEYTCHEV, SPEAKING IN RUSSIAN RATHER THAN THE HEAVILY ACCENTED AND OCCASIONALLY INCOMPREHENSIBLE ENGLISH WHICH HE USUALLY SPEAKS, MADE A LONG, RAMBLING, AND VITRIOLIC REPLY. INTER ALIA, HE SAID THE UK SEEMS WILLING TO ALLOW TERRITORIES WHERE THERE ARE NO MILITARY BASES TO BECOME INDEPENDENT BUT NOT THOSE WITH MILITARY BASES. HE SHARPLY CRITICIZED THE UK'S COLONIAL RECORD. NEYTCHEV CONCLUDED THAT THE US MILITARY BASES IN BERMUDA ARE "FAR TOO MUCH". LEONARD

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